

Conclusions

Oral history and archival records produced an abundance of detailed historical information associated with the site. The historical records associated with the property, the existence of a living member of the Kielkopf family, and archaeology completed to date collectively maximize the site's research potential. In fact, the Kielkopf House Site investigations benefited to a greater extent from associated historical records than from archaeological investigations. Of particular importance to the investigation were the recollections of Mr. Fred Kielkopf and the availability of numerous historical photographs of the Kielkopf property and its vicinity. These records, in conjunction with the archaeological record have revealed the following information. No evidence of an earlier structure from the 1868, 1881, and 1893 atlases was found within the project area. The assumption is that any pre-1880s component was destroyed when the Kielkopf house and blacksmith shop were constructed, and further erased from the archaeological record when the house and shop were later destroyed. The remains of the Kielkopf house/cellar, well and privies were located, although all the features and the yard area around the Kielkopf house were disturbed to varying degrees by bulldozer activity associated with demolition of all structures in the late 1980s. The ground slopes down from the well area to the cellar, and concrete slabs between the house and blacksmith shop – along with the upper portion of the cellar walls - were pushed into the cellar.

The artifact assemblage recovered from the site appears to be associated with the Kielkopf family occupation from the late 1880s through much of the 20th century, with most of the assemblage comprised of cut, wire and unidentified nails; whiteware; machine-made bottle glass; brick fragments; and window pane glass. The 111 pearlware and 35 creamware sherds were found site-wide in both STPs and TUs. Quantities of one to six sherds were recovered from Strata A and B in eight STPs, and in TUs 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, and Trenches 9 and 10. A ninth STP (N147/E199) yielded 20 creamware and pearlware sherds in Stratum C, the same level as the sidewalk (Feature 4). TU 7 and STP N116/E188.5 also produced creamware and pearlware sherds in Stratum C (n=7 sherds). All creamware and pearlware were recovered from mixed contexts containing modern artifacts, likely due to site disturbance resulting from demolition. Artifacts and features were found to suggest life within the Kielkopf household (i.e., hooks/eyes, pipes, preserving jars, doll parts, glass marbles, etc.), activities (i.e., blacksmithing) and socio-economic status of the occupants (i.e., types of refined ceramics; privies versus indoor plumbing, etc.). The few artifacts recovered from an earlier period (i.e., creamware, pearlware and machine cut nails) may or may not be associated with an earlier occupation of the property, but will remain an unsolved mystery due to demolition effects.

The Delaware SHPO suggested that removal of the structures did not necessarily alter the property's eligibility. However, demolition across the site has compromised the site's integrity, which according to Delaware standards, must be high for sites dating from the late-19th century. Even if the site's integrity was intact, the actual area to be impacted by construction was minimal. The northern end of the ROW was outside of the Kielkopf tract on the Dugan/Carty tract. Archival records indicate that the house on the Dugan/Carty tract was outside of both the ROW and the limits of construction; field observation placed the foundation slightly within the ROW but still outside of the LOC. STPs on the Dugan/Carty tract failed to find the house, but did locate a brick-lined well, slightly collapsed, but mostly intact. The Dugan/Carty well is

within the ROW, but outside the LOC, as are the Kielkopf privies and water well (Features 8, 9, 10, and 11). Thus, only the east and south portions of the Kielkopf cellar were within the LOC and would have been directly impacted by the original construction plan, but were avoided when plans were altered.

DelDOT further agreed to limit the construction impact on the site by placing only one utility pole with two anchor wires within the site in an already disturbed area south of the main house. DelDOT also agreed to remove only the south portion of the high curb and to cover the site with fill-dirt as protection. The high curb was removed and no features or intact buried cultural horizons were identified in the profile of the exposed area. DelDOT has no further plans that will impact the Kielkopf House Site. Therefore, Parsons recommends that no further cultural resource investigations be required at the Kielkopf House Site.